



March 30, 2017

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: SB 644**

Chair Dembrow, Members of the Committee.

I am Jerome Rosa, Executive Director of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. The Oregon Cattlemen's Association ("OCA") is the voice of the cattle industry in Oregon. We represent ranchers throughout Oregon and aim to help grow Oregon's beef industry and promote environmentally and socially sound economic practices. Oregon has over 13,000 cattle producers, using 57% of state agricultural lands and comprising 14% of Oregon's total agricultural sector.

OCA supports the property rights and economic opportunities for private landowners. Our policies include consideration of limitation on private property rights and therefore, we closely follow proposals on land-use and Oregon's unique and sometimes challenging land-use system. We support the -3 amendments to SB 644 as it will allow better flexibility for land use for our members, including the right for permitted mining on private property in Baker, Grant, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Union and Wallowa Counties. USGS and DOGAMI reports show significant mineral deposits in these seven counties that have a strong likelihood of being economical mines. The ranching community needs the ability to utilize the resources on their land to diversify their income stream. The -3 amendments go a long ways to aiding ranchers to that end.

SB 644 allows ranchers the opportunity to explore mineral opportunity on their lands. We support this step in a positive direction on land-use and look forward to continuing to find ways to support the economic opportunity of ranching families and rural Oregonians.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jerome Rosa'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Jerome Rosa

Executive Director